3 ~~45~~. The synthetic mutein of claim ~~43~~ 1 ~~54~~ wherein said cysteine residue has been replaced by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of serine or threonine.

4 ~~46~~. The synthetic mutein of claim ~~43~~ 1 ~~54~~ wherein the mutein is unglycosylated.

62 5 ~~47~~. Biologically active IFN-β_{ser17}.

~~48. Biologically IFN-β_{ser17}.~~

6 ~~49~~. IFN-β_{ser17} as represented by the amino acid sequence represented in Figure 10.

7 ~~50~~. A therapeutic composition having IFN-β activity comprising a therapeutically effective amount of the synthetic mutein of claims 1 ~~53~~ ~~54~~ ~~43~~, 2 ~~44~~, 3 ~~45~~, 4 ~~46~~, 5 ~~47~~, ~~48~~ or 6 ~~49~~ admixed with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier medium.

8 ~~51~~. A method of regulating cell growth in a patient comprising administering to said patient a cell growth regulating amount of the synthetic mutein of claims 1 ~~53~~ ~~54~~ ~~43~~, 2 ~~44~~, 3 ~~45~~, 4 ~~46~~, 5 ~~47~~, ~~48~~ or 6 ~~49~~.

9 ~~52~~. A method of treating a patient for viral disease comprising administering to said patient a viral disease inhibiting amount of the synthetic mutein of claims 1 ~~53~~ ~~54~~ ~~43~~, 2 ~~44~~, 3 ~~45~~, 4 ~~46~~, 5 ~~47~~, ~~48~~ or 6 ~~49~~.

10 ~~53~~ 52. A method of stimulating natural killer cell activity in a patient comprising administering to said patient a natural killer cell stimulating amount of the synthetic mutein of claims 1 ~~53~~ ~~54~~ ~~43~~, 2 ~~44~~, 3 ~~45~~, 4 ~~46~~, 5 ~~47~~, ~~48~~ or 6 ~~49~~.

REMARKS

By the present amendment, the specification has been amended to update the status of the parent applications. Also, all the original claims have been cancelled and replaced with claims directed to synthetic muteins of human IFN-β. These new claims track original claims 1-8, 28, 33 and 40-42 which were restricted from the parent application, U.S. Serial No. 564,224 in a telephonic restriction requirement on September 18, 1984.